

REMARKS

Claim 3 was objected to because of quotations around "non-woven". Claim 3, and claim 4 which has the same expression, have each been amended to delete the quotation marks.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Gipson et al.*

It is submitted that *Gipson et al* disclose a belt 12 which the Examiner considers to have "left and right semi belts". However, *Gipson et al* do not suggest or show the semi belts

" ... folded and compressed one against the other and both against the external side of said central section (CE) of the belt (C) when the pad is not used."

Rather *Gipson et al* disclose a belt which is laid out flat with no folds and no compression. The semi belts (as defined by the Examiner) are not compressed against one another and the semi belts of *Gipson et al* do not contact the central section of the belt when the pad is not in use.

Claim 1 has further been amended to recite the formation of lamination rolls on which there are formed a series of projections. The projections create a punctiform union between the layers. Support for this structure is found in the amended PCT specification page 6, lines 9-13 (see also Publication US 2006/0167438, column 2, paragraph [0034]). It is submitted that the cited references do not have any projections or any union between the layers.

The folding and fastening of the semi belts has been given special attention as discussed in the specification page 4, lines 1-15. This is distinguishable from the cited references which provide no teaching concerning the folds in the device.

The Examiner also considers the reference to have projections 10 capable of perforating the over-lapped layers. The projections disclosed by *Gipson et al* are actually "Velcro" type fasteners

(see also column 3, line 58 through column 4, line 36). The projections do not perforate the overlapped layers of the semi belts as recited in claim 1. Note page 6, lines 9-15 and FIGS. 2, 3 and 8 of the present invention which show the projections creating perforations. These projections and perforations are distinct from the Velcro type fasteners (page 6, line 23 through page 7, line 16). The present invention discloses both the projections/perforations and hook and loop (Velcro) type fasteners. It is clear from the drawings and specification that the projections are distinctly different from the Velcro fasteners. The cited reference does not suggest nor disclose the projections/perforations.

It is submitted that the above limitations are structural and not an intended use of the article.

It is further submitted that all of the elements of the claimed invention are not described in the *Gipson et al* reference and lifting of this basis of rejection and allowance of claims 1 and 2 is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Gipson et al*. Since claims 3-5 are dependent on claim 1 and claim 1, as discussed above, is distinguished from *Gipson et al*, it is requested that this basis of rejection be lifted and claims 3-5 be allowed.

It is submitted that all elements have a sufficient antecedent basis and the claim has been clarified. Accordingly, allowance of claim 1 and claims 2-5 dependent therefrom is respectfully requested.

It appears that all matters have been addressed satisfactorily, and that the case is now in condition for a complete allowance; and the same is respectfully urged.

However, if the Examiner has any comments or questions, or has any suggestions as per MPEP 707.07 (d) and (j), for putting the case in condition for final allowance, he is respectfully

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urged to contact the undersigned attorney-of-record at the telephone number below, so that an expeditious resolution may be effected and the case passed to issue promptly.

Respectfully submitted,

3-12-07
Date

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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